

Senate District P

Mitch Schapira, Democrat



DATE OF BIRTH: April 11, 1951

PLACE OF BIRTH: New York City

NAME OF SPOUSE: Suzanne R. Schapira

CHILDREN: Isaac (age 20); Elise (age 11); Claire (age 8)

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OCCUPATION: Attorney

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 26 years
Anchorage 1976 to present

EDUCATION:
Stuyvesant High School, 1963-1967 (Regents Diploma); State University of New York at Binghamton, 1967-1971 (B.A. - Political Science); U.C.L.A. School of Law, 1972-1975 (Juris Doctor).

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
United States Civil Rights Commission, State Advisory Council (1977 to present).

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
Small business owner - sole practitioner.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:

Anti-Defamation League - State Chairperson

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Public policy, Racquetball

OTHER:

Civil Rights Activist, Member of Task Force on Malicious Harassment, Sunday School Teacher, Scout Leader, Little League Coach.

STATEMENT:

When I arrived in Alaska, 26 years ago, Alaska was a land brimming with opportunity and promise. There was an Alaskan spirit that was a can-do spirit. We had a sense that we could make a new way, a better way, and leave a better place for our children. I look at where we are now and I want to restore the promise, and the hopeful spirit of those days.

As a senator, my highest priority will be education. I believe we should invest our resources in schools and teachers, and we should emphasize academics. I think this is a better use of our resources than exit exams which are costly and disruptive.

We must elect legislators who can work together to create new opportunities for our State and meet the fiscal challenges left by the last legislature, even after they were called back for two special sessions.

If we keep spending from our reserve account, it will be gone soon. The last legislature 'borrowed' over \$600,000,000. That's money that won't be earning income for us this year. That lost income is the price we pay for not addressing our fiscal needs. We can't afford to wait any longer.

I am in favor of responsible development. I will protect your permanent fund dividend. I am pro-choice. I think the people have a right to vote on subsistence and in open primaries. And I will work like heck to build a consensus on issues in our new, diverse, Senate District P.

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